

Money Used in the Japanese-American Internment Camps of World War II

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Why the Camps Came to Be

Anti-Japanese racism existed in the United States from the start of Japanese immigration in the late 1800s. Japanese immigrants were not allowed to become citizens, although their children were protected by the 14th Amendment and were born as US citizens (Kashima, 2003). However, even these US citizens--over 100,000 Japanese Americans--were subject to imprisonment in Japanese American camps during World War II.

The Empire of Japan attacked Pearl Harbor in Hawaii on December 7, 1941. War was declared the next day. Only two months later, on February 19, 1942, President Franklin Roosevelt issued the now-infamous Executive Order 9066 (US National Archives, see Figure 1). This required the forced evacuation of anyone of Japanese ancestry--including United States citizens-- from a "Western exclusion zone." Figure 2 shows the military order that put the relocation into action based on Executive Order 9066. Men, women, children, and the elderly were sent first to short-term "assembly centers" (located in temporary settings like fairgrounds and racetracks) and then to relocation camps in the interior (read: middle of nowhere) of the United States. Those people who had aroused more specific suspicion were sometimes placed in a third type of camp, run by the Justice Department or US Army (US National Park Service).

EXECUTIVE ORDER

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AUTHORIZING THE SECRETARY OF WAR TO PRESCRIBE
MILITARY AREAS

WHEREAS the successful prosecution of the war requires every possible protection against espionage and against sabotage to national-defense material, national-defense premises, and national-defense utilities as defined in Section 4, Act of April 20, 1918, 40 Stat. 533, as amended by the Act of November 30, 1940, 54 Stat. 1220, and the Act of August 21, 1941, 55 Stat. 655 (U. S. C., Title 50, Sec. 104):

NOW, THEREFORE, by virtue of the authority vested in me as President of the United States, and Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy, I hereby authorize and direct the Secretary of War, and the Military Commanders whom he may from time to time designate, whenever he or any designated Commander deems such action necessary or desirable, to prescribe military areas in such places and of such extent as he or the appropriate Military Commander may determine, from which any or all persons may be excluded, and with respect to which, the right of any person to enter, remain in, or leave shall be subject to whatever restrictions the Secretary of War or the appropriate Military

Commander may impose in his discretion. The Secretary of War is hereby authorized to provide for residents of any such area who are excluded therefrom, such transportation, food, shelter, and other accommodations as may be necessary, in the judgment of the Secretary of War or the said Military Commander, and until other arrangements are made, to accomplish the purpose of this order. The designation of military areas in any region or locality shall supersede designations of prohibited and restricted areas by the Attorney General under the Proclamations of December 7 and 8, 1941, and shall supersede the responsibility and authority of the Attorney General under the said Proclamations in respect of such prohibited and restricted areas.

I hereby further authorize and direct the Secretary of War and the said Military Commanders to take such other steps as he or the appropriate Military Commander may deem advisable to enforce compliance with the restrictions applicable to each Military area hereinabove authorized to be designated, including the use of Federal troops and other Federal Agencies, with authority to accept assistance of state and local agencies.

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I hereby further authorize and direct all Executive Departments, independent establishments and other Federal Agencies, to assist the Secretary of War or the said Military Commanders in carrying out this Executive Order, including the furnishing of medical aid, hospitalization, food, clothing, transportation, use of land, shelter, and other supplies, equipment, utilities, facilities, and services.

This order shall not be construed as modifying or limiting in any way the authority heretofore granted under Executive Order No. 8972, dated December 12, 1941, nor shall it be construed as limiting or modifying the duty and responsibility of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, with respect to the investigation of alleged acts of sabotage or the duty and responsibility of the Attorney General and the Department of Justice under the Proclamations of December 7 and 8, 1941, prescribing regulations for the conduct and control of alien enemies, except as such duty and responsibility is superseded by the designation of military areas hereunder.

THE WHITE HOUSE,

February 14, 1942.



THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES
FILED AND MADE AVAILABLE
FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

FEB 21 12 51 PM '42

IN THE DIVISION OF THE
FEDERAL REGISTER

9066

Figure 1: President Franklin Roosevelt's Executive Order 9066 (National Archives).

**WESTERN DEFENSE COMMAND AND FOURTH ARMY
WARTIME CIVIL CONTROL ADMINISTRATION**

Presidio of San Francisco, California
May 7, 1942

**INSTRUCTIONS
TO ALL PERSONS OF
JAPANESE
ANCESTRY**

Living in the Following Area:

All of the City of Sacramento, State of California.

Pursuant to the provisions of Civilian Exclusion Order No. 52, this Headquarters, dated May 7, 1942, all persons of Japanese ancestry, both alien and non-alien, will be evacuated from the above area by 12 o'clock noon, P. W. T., Saturday, May 16, 1942.

No Japanese person living in the above area will be permitted to change residence after 12 o'clock noon, P. W. T., Thursday, May 7, 1942, without obtaining special permission from the representative of the Commanding General, Northern California Sector, at the Civil Control Station located at:

Civic Memorial Auditorium,
Fifteenth and I Streets,
Sacramento, California.

Such permits will only be granted for the purpose of uniting members of a family, or in cases of grave emergency. The Civil Control Station is equipped to assist the Japanese population affected by this evacuation in the following ways:

1. Give advice and instructions on the evacuation.
2. Provide services with respect to the management, leasing, sale, storage or other disposition of most kinds of property, such as real estate, business and professional equipment, household goods, boats, automobiles and livestock.
3. Provide temporary residence elsewhere for all Japanese in family groups.
4. Transport persons and a limited amount of clothing and equipment to their new residence.

The Following Instructions Must Be Observed:

1. A responsible member of each family, preferably the head of the family, or the person in whose name most of the property is held, and each individual living alone, will report to the Civil Control Station to receive further instructions. This must be done between 8:00 A. M. and 5:00 P. M. on Friday, May 8, 1942, or between 8:00 A. M. and 5:00 P. M. on Saturday, May 9, 1942, or between 8:00 A. M. and 5:00 P. M. on Sunday, May 10, 1942.
 2. Evacuees must carry with them on departure for the Assembly Center, the following property:
 - (a) Bedding and linens (no mattress) for each member of the family;
 - (b) Toilet articles for each member of the family;
 - (c) Extra clothing for each member of the family;
 - (d) Sufficient knives, forks, spoons, plates, bowls and cups for each member of the family;
 - (e) Essential personal effects for each member of the family.
- All items carried will be securely packaged, tied and plainly marked with the name of the owner and numbered in accordance with instructions obtained at the Civil Control Station. The size and number of packages is limited to that which can be carried by the individual or family group.
3. No pets of any kind will be permitted.
 4. No personal items and no household goods will be shipped to the Assembly Center.
 5. The United States Government through its agencies will provide for the storage, at the sole risk of the owner, of the more substantial household items, such as iceboxes, washing machines, pianos and other heavy furniture. Cooking utensils and other small items will be accepted for storage if crated, packed and plainly marked with the name and address of the owner. Only one name and address will be used by a given family.
 6. Each family, and individual living alone, will be furnished transportation to the Assembly Center or will be authorized to travel by private automobile in a supervised group. All instructions pertaining to the movement will be obtained at the Civil Control Station.

Go to the Civil Control Station between the hours of 8:00 A. M. and 5:00 P. M., Friday, May 8, 1942, or between the hours of 8:00 A. M. and 5:00 P. M., Saturday, May 9, 1942, or between the hours of 8:00 A. M. and 5:00 P. M., Sunday, May 10, 1942, to receive further instructions.

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J. L. DeWITT
Lieutenant General, U. S. Army
Commanding

WAR CIVILIAN EXCLUSION ORDER NO. 52

Figure 2: Instructions for implementing Executive Order 9066 (National Archives).

Japanese American Imprisonment during World War II

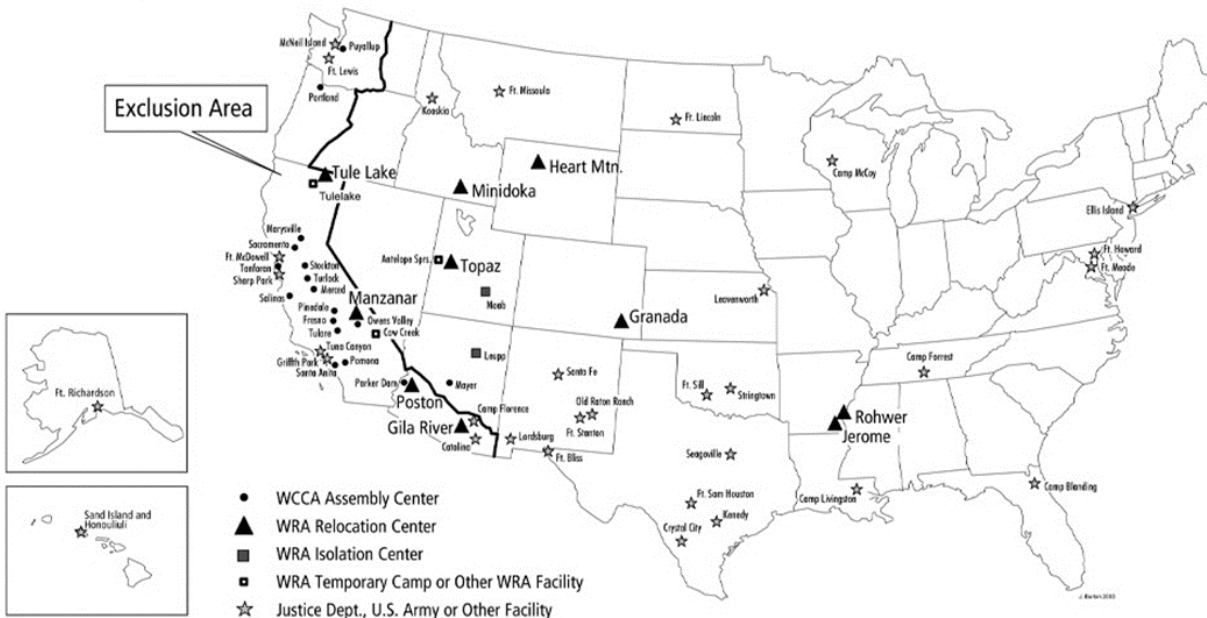


Figure 3: Map of Japanese-American centers of internment during World War II (image from the National Park Service)

Numismatic Items from the Camps

Little has been written on the numismatic remainders of the assembly centers or from the ten relocation centers established inland for the evacuees. The present research has uncovered numerous numismatic items from these camps. We have utilized camp newspapers, memoirs, yearbooks from camp high schools, scrapbooks, film footage, and official reports. We have also had the opportunity to visit some of the camp sites in person. From these sources, we have begun to piece together the numismatic story of the Japanese American internment camps.

The internees were able to use US paper currency and coins. They also had bank accounts both back home and in the camps. There were also other forms of money and other related ephemera in assembly centers and relocation camps. These included paper scrip, event tickets, clothing and other commodity coupons, tokens, lottery tickets, and co-op receipts.

Coupon Books

Within weeks of camps opening, numismatic items were being mentioned in the camp newspapers. The most common were coupon books. Shown below is a newspaper from the Santa Anita (CA) Assembly Center with headlines about coupon books. Many newspapers in the camps had similar reports. These references make clear that the coupon books were an essential

part of the camp economy. A coupon book is shown from the WCCA with one attached coupon. To redeem coupons for goods, prisoners would have to present the coupon booklet with the coupon attached. Goods were not exchanged if the coupon was loose. This prevented bartering for goods in the camps and is the same model as many POW camps in the United States (see Seeley and Frank, 2019).

Although the references to coupon books are frequent, surviving examples are quite limited. This is likely because the internees were encouraged to use their coupons before leaving. As one article from the *Fresno Grapevine* reported on June 6, 1942: ““Coupon books are not reimburseable [sic] in cash at the time evacuees are transferred to other relocation center [sic],’ states E.P. Pulliam. He also suggests that everyone expend their coupon books at the center store since the same are not negotiable at the War Relocation Centers.” (See Figure 5) Given that the inmates had to purchase coupon books in Fresno, likely the incentive was even higher to use them up.

Santa Anita *Pacemaker*

Vol. I, No. 23

Santa Anita Assembly Center, California

July 4, 1942

RELOCATION OF STUDENTS

Students of college age may be given the opportunity of continuing their education, according to plans discussed at the meeting of a committee on student relocation at the Government House Thursday.

At the meeting were Dr. W. O. Mendenhall, president of Whittier college and Pacific Coast chairman of the National Student Relocation council, and Mrs. Marian B. Rieth, executive secretary of the Southern California headquarters of the council.

The first step towards relocating students will take place Monday when questionnaires, accompanied by instructions from the management, will be distributed by census takers to all nisei residents of college age.

(Continued on page 2)

AMORY ANNOUNCES FREE COUPON BOOKS

Distribution Will Begin Monday From Center Cashier's Station

Distribution of free coupon books to Center residents begins Monday at 9 a.m. at the cashier's station west of the main post office, H. Russell Amory, Center manager, announced today.

Coupon books will be issued only to heads of families and those considered as individuals. An individual is

any person who has passed his 16th birthday but who does not fall within the definition of "a couple."

A couple is defined as man and wife, whether legally married or living as common law husband and wife.

Books will be distributed in accordance with the following schedule: \$1 for each person under 16 years of age, \$2.50 for each individual and \$4 for each couple.

A family, Center cashier Clyde Lambourne explained, includes the parents and children who have not passed their sixteenth birthdays. The maximum allowance for each family is \$7.50.

An example of a family residing in the Center:

Father, mother, grandmother, son 19, daughter 18, son 12, daughter 8, son 6, and daughter 4.

(Continued on page 2)



HOLIDAY SPIRIT PERVADES ANITA FUNITA OPENING

In spite of difficulties with the amplifying system which delayed the opening ceremonies and the talent show last night for more than two hours, a patient, good-natured crowd of over 15,000 waited to give the two-day Anita Funita a rousing send-off.

Earlier in the afternoon

Figure 4: The Santa Anita *Pacemaker* of July 4, 1942. The play on words indicates the racetrack origin of this assembly center (Densho).

USE YOUR COUPON BOOKS BEFORE GOING

"Coupon books are not reimburseable in cash at the time evacuees are transferred to other relocation center," states E. P. Puliam. He also suggests that everyone expend their coupon books at the center store since the same are not negotiable at the War Relocation Centers.

Until further notice, coupon books are sold from 11:30 a.m. except on Saturday when the booth is open from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Figure 5: *Fresno Grapevine*, June 6, 1942, encouraging internees to use their coupons (Densho).



FIGURE 31: Evacuees drawing coupon books at Assembly Center. In addition to the nominal wages paid, if employed within the Centers, evacuees were entitled without cost to coupon or script books, redeemable at Center stores or canteens for personal items.

Figure 6: Coupons being issued at a Japanese Assembly Center (Densho).

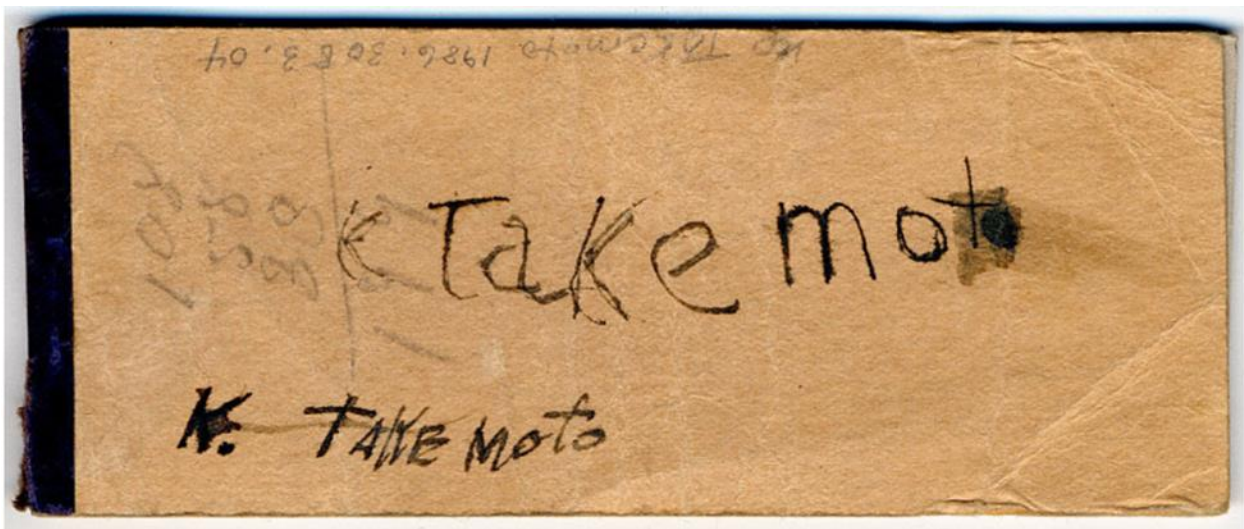
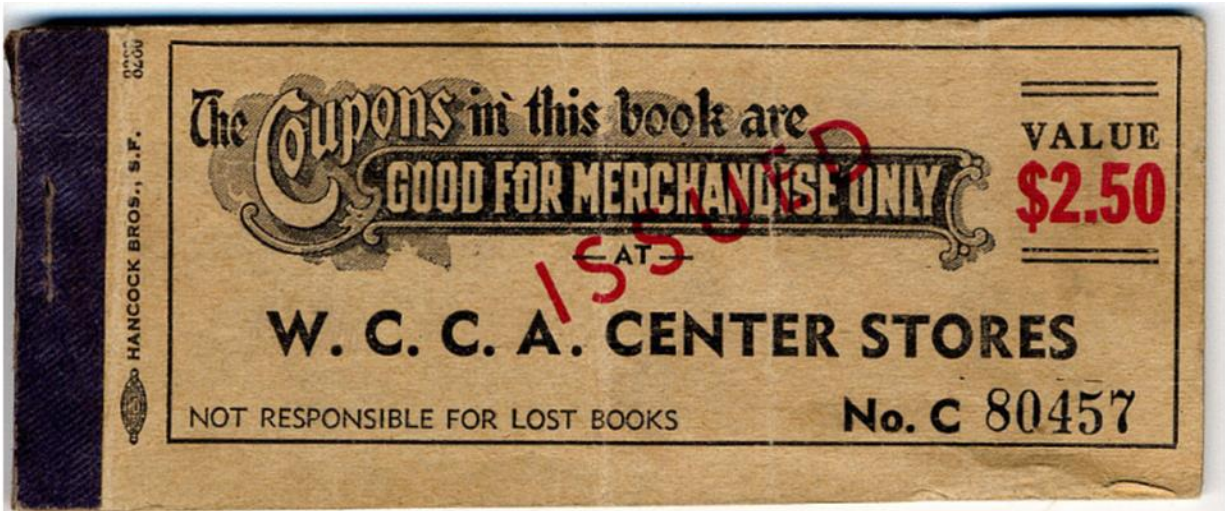


Figure 7: WCCA Center Store chit from a booklet. It was issued in the name of K. Takemoto (Densho).

Cooperatives

Associated Cooperatives of Oakland offered to help the relocation centers in establishing cooperatives. All but one accepted and established a co-op system (Thompson, 2011). These allowed the prisoners to have more control over their internal economy and what products were coming into the camps. The co-ops were not limited to stores. They also included soda fountains, beauty salons, barber shops, shoe repair, photography studios, movie showings a flower shop, check cashing, and other services (Unrau, 1996). They also produced their own newspapers to keep their members up to date. The co-ops were very successful--in fact, a year after it opened, the Manzanar co-op was the second largest consumer co-op in the country (Thompson, 2011). Patrons had to use the same ration books as those outside the camps, and examples of ration books issued to internees can be found.

Additionally, there are examples of special coupons for the Co-ops, as well as an incentivized receipt system. Upon arrival at the camp, many internees did not have much more than what was on their back so the need for supplies was prevalent. Co-op members paid dues that would go to the purchase of the wares at the co-op stores. When Co-op members purchased supplies at these stores, they received a dividend. These were profit refunds based on the sales as evidenced by the issued (and saved) receipts (see Figure 14).

Although Co-ops were introduced by the WRA, they were run by several committees composed of fellow prisoners who were elected by cooperative members. These places of business accounted for millions of dollars in sales. For example, the Tule Lake *Cooperator* issue from October 30, 1943, reported that the previous three months' total sales and services amounted to \$371,351.02.

COMPTROLLER'S VOUCHER N^o 5593

DATE	IN SETTLEMENT OF	AMOUNT
March 25, 1944	Redemption of Certificate of Indebtedness #1875 Serial B Ishida, Atsushi	\$.02

NOTE:

Unless this Voucher is returned to the Jerome Cooperative Enterprises, Inc., within 30 days after date of issue, IT SHALL BE VOID. You may return this Voucher at our office or at any place of our business.

Detach this Statement before Cashing

COMPTROLLER'S VOUCHER

N^o 5593

Denson, Arkansas

DATE 3/25/44 I. D. No. BLOCK 8-01-4 UNIT

PAY TO Ishida, Atsushi \$.02

THE SUM OF exactly No dollars and 02/100 DOLLARS

AND CHARGE SAME TO C. of I. JEROME COOPERATIVE ENTERPRISES, INC.

DEPT. By *Gerata Hoshiko*

SIGN HERE By *K. Sawada*

Figure 8: Co-op voucher from the Jerome Co-op, 1944 (World War II Japanese American Internment Museum, McGehee, AR)

PATRONS WARNED NOT TO LOSE OR DISCARD USED COUPON BOOKS

According to latest figures from the Rohwer Cooperative Enterprises, coupon sales between Feb. 15 to 28 totaled \$14,957.50. Of this total \$10,133.72 have been redeemed.

Empty coupon books are valuable and must not be lost or thrown away, warned the co-op today.

Patronage refunds can be calculated only on the number of empty books turned in. Dates on which the empty books are to be turned in will be announced from time to time.

Coupon books are now

sold at the canteen and Blocks 5, 9, 15, 28, 38 and 41.

Residents are encouraged to buy their books at the block offices because of the long lines at the canteen.

Lost coupon books should be claimed at the canteen.

To date 3886 members have been signed as members of the Rohwer Co-op.

The sales record for the period Sept. 24, 1942, to Jan. 31, 1943, will appear on page 4. Beginning February, a monthly report will be put out.

Figure 9: Rohwer Camp usage of Co-op coupons (World War II Japanese American Internment Museum, McGehee, AR)

Co-op documents and vouchers:



Figure 10: Possibly a membership card for the Manzanar Co-op (image from Densho)



Figure 11: Patronage receipt from the Manzanar Relocation Camp Co-op (image from the Manzanar National Historic Site)

Manzanar Cooperative Enterprises, Inc.
Statement of Patronage & Disposition of Refunds

Quarter Ending SEP 30 1942

SAKA, N. 3-2-4 818E
Name Address I.D. No.

Amount of Patronage \$ 46.70

Refund at 18.8 % \$ 8.77

Less: 10 % General Reserve \$.88

Advance Refunds Paid \$

Applied to Membership \$ 3.00

Certificate of Indebtedness:

for %
of Patronage Refunds \$

Total Deductions \$ 3.88

Balance Cash Refund Paid by

Cash Order # 115 attached \$ 2.89


Know YOUR  CO-OP Well

Figure 12: Patronage refund receipt from the Manzanar Co-op (image from Densho)

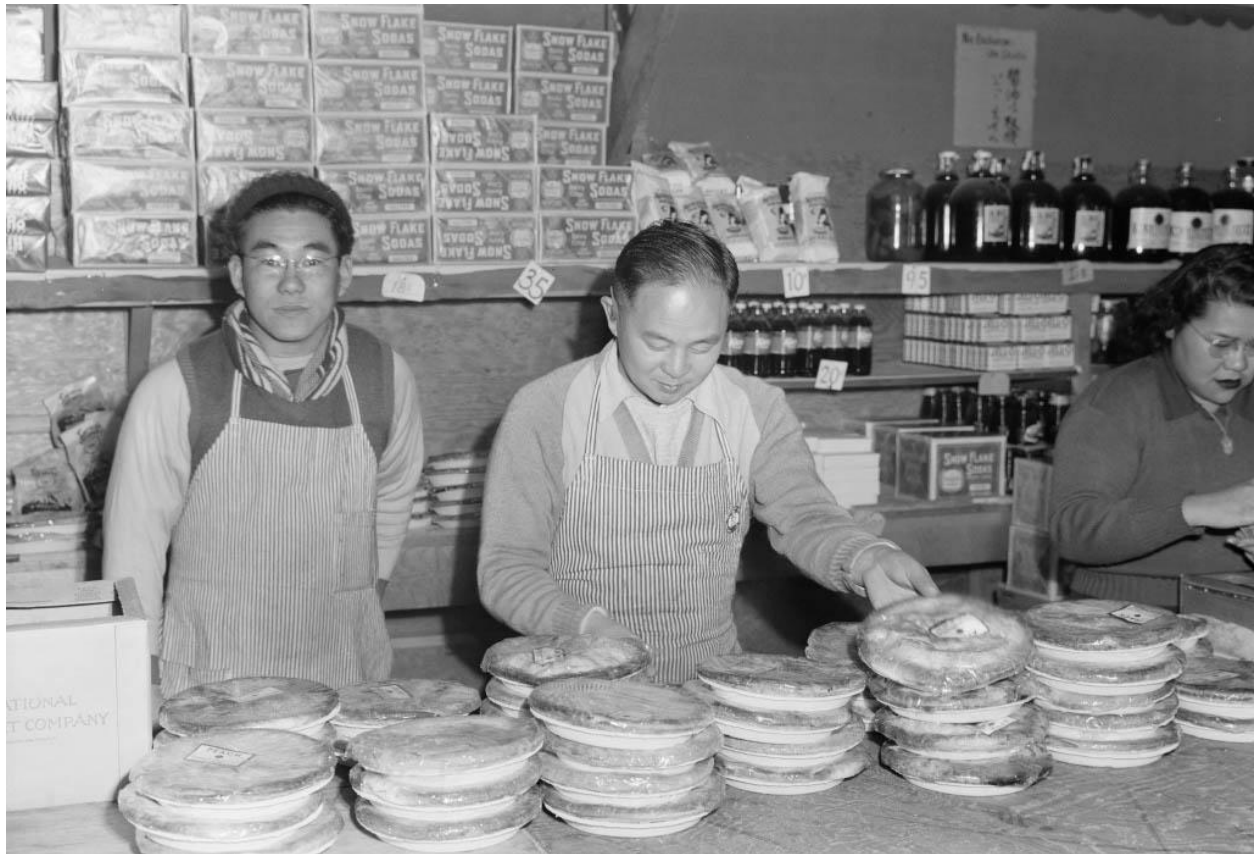


Figure 13: Canteen in Manzanar; image by Ansel Adams (image from Densho)



Figure 14: Inside an Arkansas Japanese-American Internment Camp Store (World War II Japanese American Internment Museum, McGehee, AR)



Figure 15: Outside an Arkansas Japanese-American Camp canteen (World War II Japanese American Internment Museum, McGehee, AR)

Other Numismatic Items

Other examples of numismatic items in the camps include tickets for recreational activities, such as baseball tickets, movie tickets, and tickets to events like a birthday ball. Examples are shown below. .

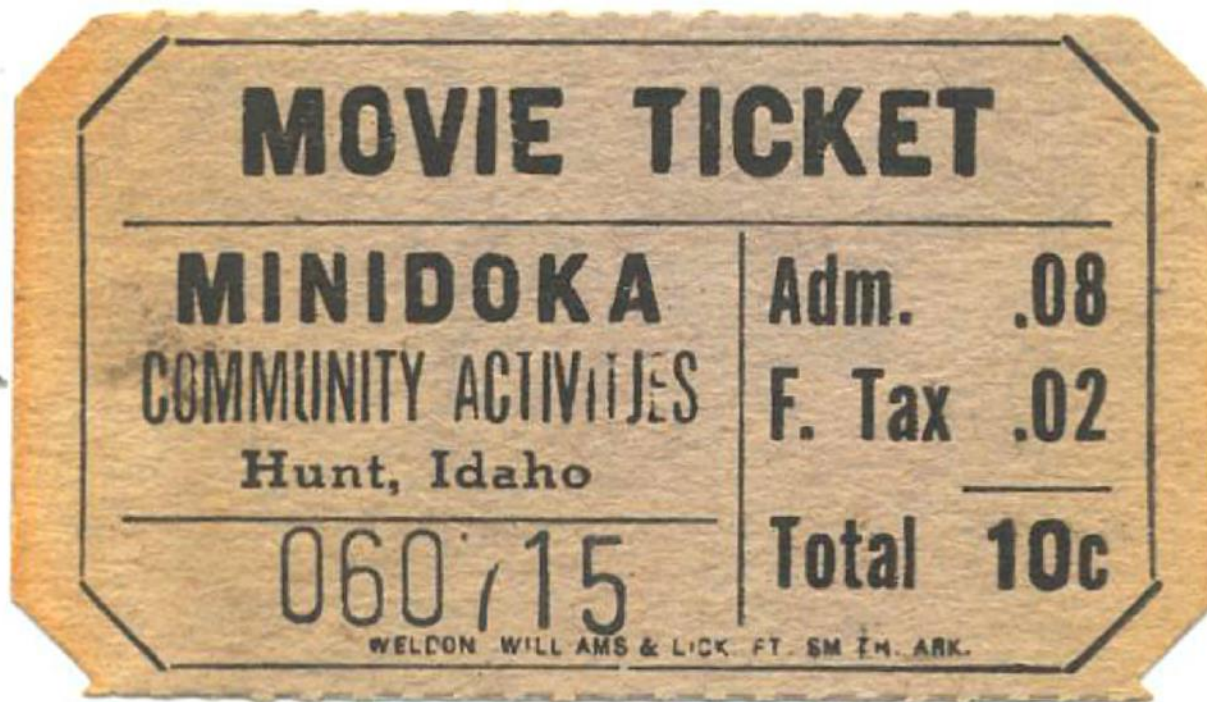


Figure 16: Movie ticket for use at Minidoka War Relocation Camp (Steve Feller Collection).

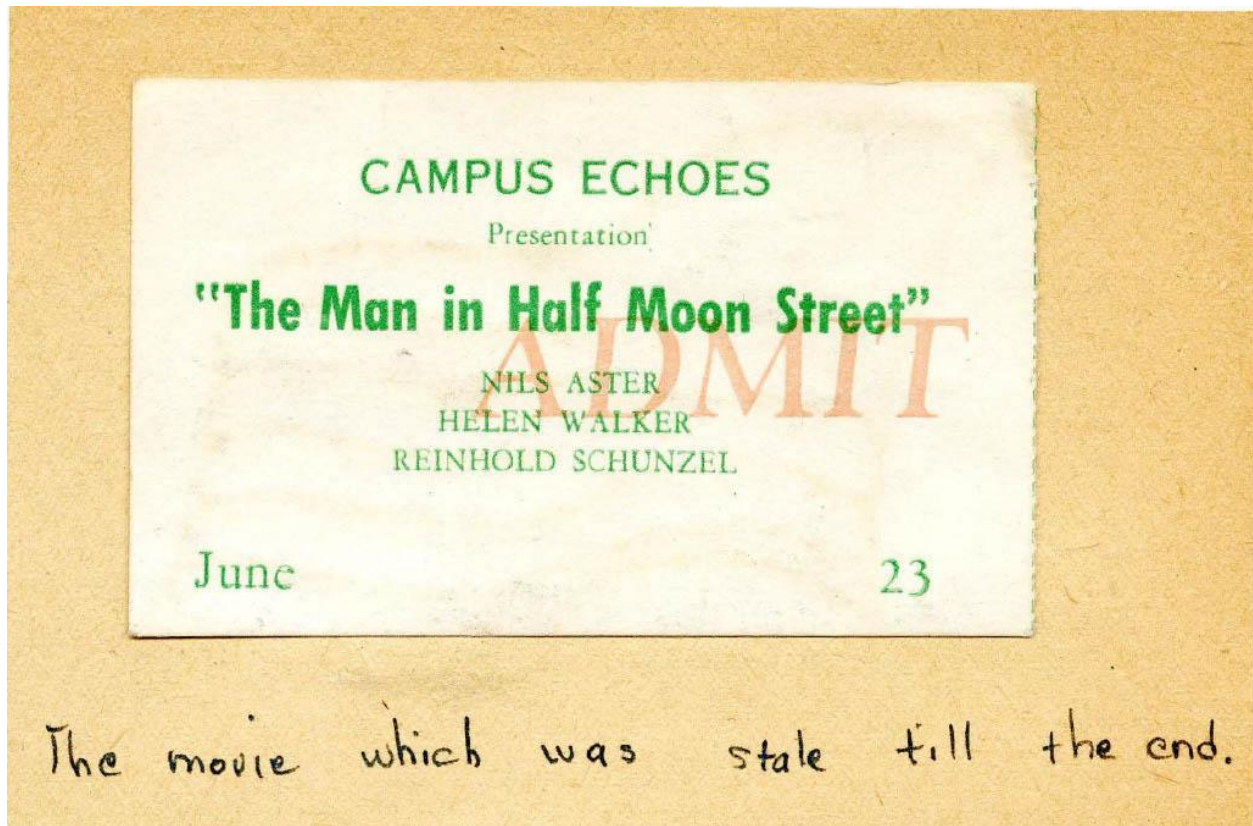


Figure 17: Poston Movie Ticket (Image from a scrapbook, courtesy of Densho)

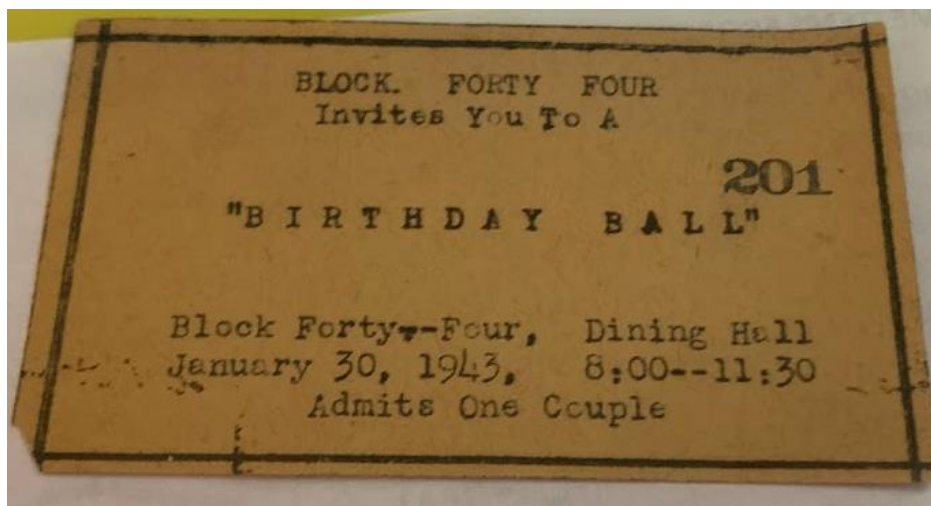


Figure 18: Ticket to a Birthday Ball in Jerome (World War II Japanese American Internment Museum, McGehee, AR)

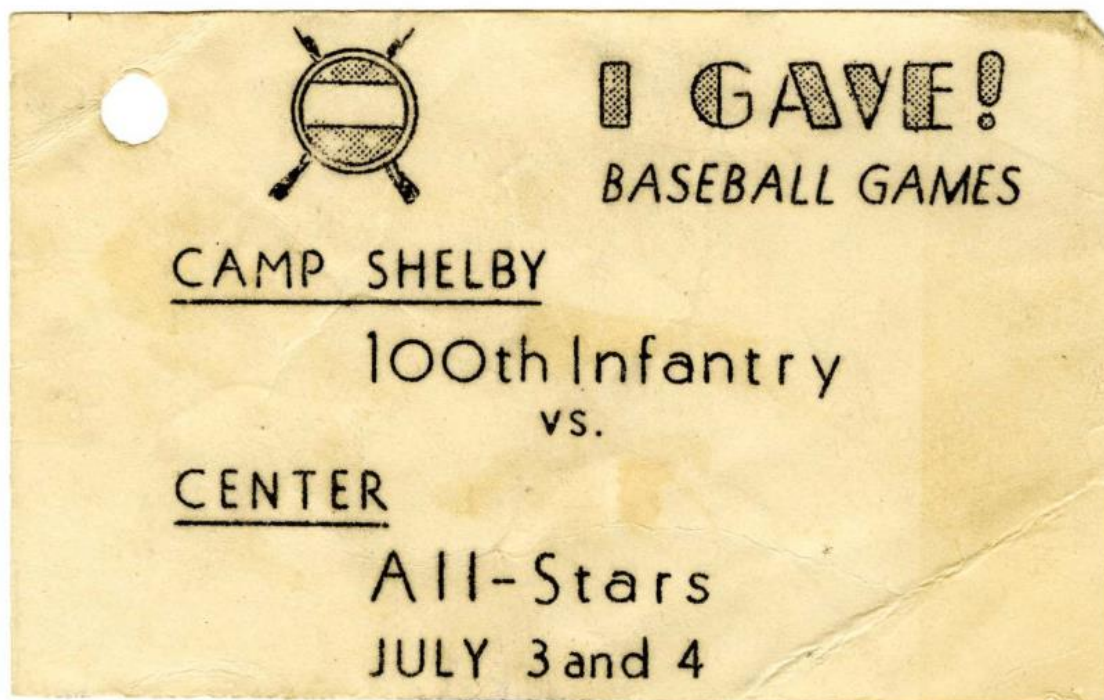


Figure 19: Ticket to baseball games between the US Army at Camp Shelby (Mississippi) and Japanese American internees from Jerome, AR. The Jerome team won 2 out of 3 games played in 1943 (California State University, Dominguez Hills, Archives and Special Collections).

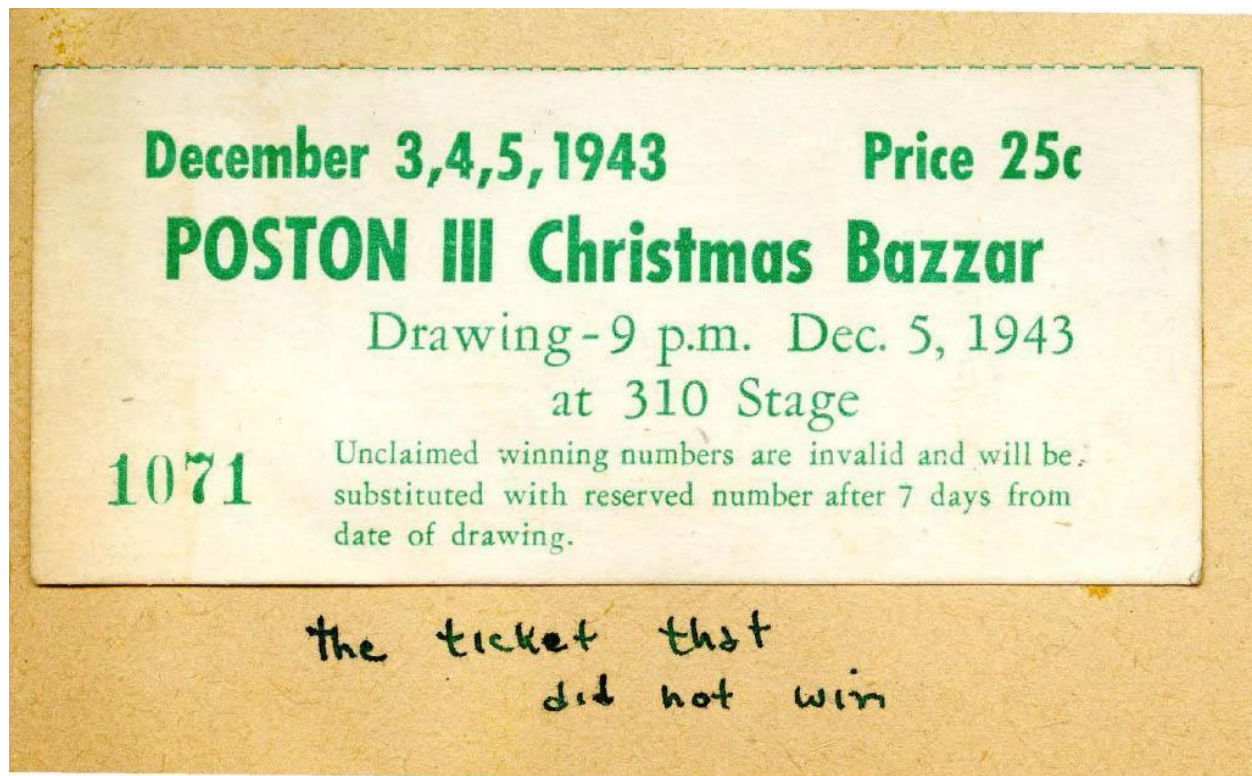


Figure 20: Raffle ticket for Poston III Camp (Image from Densho)

Reparations After the War

After decades of effort, those interned in these camps finally received financial compensation from the United States. President Reagan signed the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 into law, which paid each living resident, spouse, or parent \$20,000, accompanied by a letter of apology from the president. A sample check is signed below, See Figure 21. Japanese people deported from Latin America to the United States and interned in places like Crystal City, Texas received \$5,000 and a presidential letter of apology. Over the course of the redress program, more than 82,219 people received more than \$1.6 billion (US National Archives).

Among the estimated 82,219 individuals paid, 189 were Japanese Latin American claimants eligible for the full \$20,000 in redress compensation under the Act because they had the required permanent residency status or U.S. citizenship during the war period. In addition, \$5,000 was paid to 145 Japanese Latin Americans who were deported from their homes in Latin America during WWII and held in internment camps in the U.S (US National Archives).

The government rules included:

In order to have been eligible for restitution, an applicant had to have been:

- 1. alive on August 10, 1988*
- 2. a United States (U.S.) citizen or permanent resident alien during the internment period December 7, 1941 to June 30, 1946*
- 3. a person of Japanese ancestry, or the spouse or parent of a person of Japanese ancestry*
- 4. evacuated, relocated, interned, or otherwise deprived of liberty or property as a result of Federal government action during the internment period and based solely on their Japanese ancestry (US National Archives)*

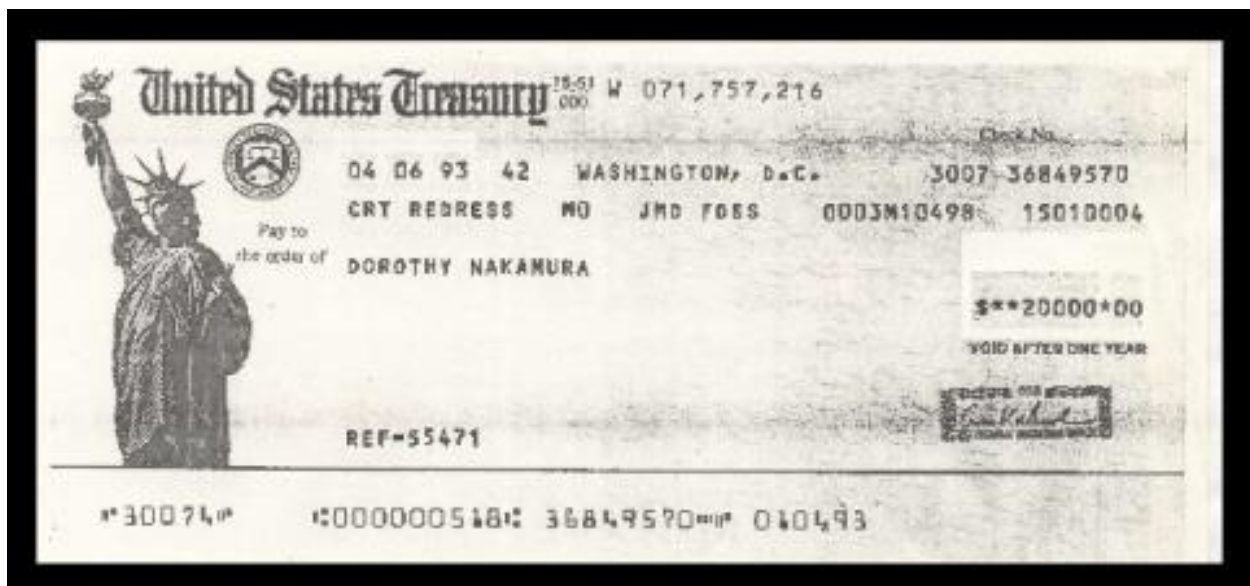


Figure 21: Compensatory \$20000 payment to Ms. Dorothy Nakamura for being interned in WWII. (Image from Densho)

Visiting Jerome and Rohwer in Arkansas

There is an incredible wealth of information about the camps through online portals like Densho Digital Repository or the Library of Congress' Digital Collection. However, we have also learned from previous experience that going to the actual sites provides information that is not possible to glean from a distance. With that in mind, and funding from the Newman Numismatic Portal, the authors traveled to McGehee, Arkansas in October. This is where The World War II Japanese American Internment Museum is located. It is also near two relocation camps:

Rohwer and Jerome. We visited all three places and found new numismatic information, as well as additional insights.

We began our visit at the phenomenal Taylor's Steakhouse in Dumas, AK, a town of 4,700 people. We were welcomed by the waitress, who noticed that we were not familiar faces (or accents). When we told her we were there to learn more about the Japanese internment camps, she was very familiar with the history. In fact, nearly everyone we spoke to was fully aware that there had been Japanese internment camps--and considered them a regrettable part of the country's past. She actually connected us directly to the mayor of McGehee--Mr. Jeff Owyong--through his personal phone number(!) She also served us a delectable dinner.

We stayed at the Furr House, a beautiful bed and breakfast in historic Arkansas City. Our host, Rick Hales, introduced us to Robert S. Moore, Jr, former Speaker of the House of Representatives in Arkansas, and an impressive resource on the history of the area. He took us on a tour of Arkansas City, including a surprise visit to a church that had used a Jerome barracks building as an addition (see Figure 22).



Figure 22: Japanese-American camp barracks used as an addition to a now-closed church in Arkansas City, AR.

Barracks at the Japanese-American internment camps typically held several families, only provided with cots and a small stove. It is difficult to imagine so many families packed in such a small space with limited privacy. We did not anticipate being able to step into a barracks building from the camp--in fact, we had read that none of the barracks remained. This is one concrete example of the kind of learning that can only happen with a visit. Per Robert, after the camps were shut down, the materials were gathered up and used by many people in the area--he said his own house had windows from the barracks.

Our first morning in town, we visited the World War II Japanese American Internment Museum. It is a small museum, located in the old train depot. We were welcomed with a short documentary and then invited to explore the exhibits, as well as a plethora of scrapbooks, newspapers, and yearbooks that were left out for people to look through. Momo, our youngest researcher at age 6, took notes and helped with photographing the artifacts. We saw many numismatic-related items: ration books, photographs of one of the canteens, employment paperwork, documents from the Co-op, tickets to events, and even a Co-op receipt we had never seen before (See Figures 24-26). We also observed tokens from Wilson Plantations (see Figure 28), a local farm that attempted to entice internees to stay and work in Arkansas after the war. We learned that, despite a peak population of over 16,000 internees, only one family chose to remain in Arkansas long-term (World War II Japanese American Internment Museum).



Figure 23: Jerome-Rohwer Interpretive Museum and Visitor Center at the World War II Japanese American Internment Museum in McGehee, AR. This is located on the site of the passenger train terminal in McGehee. Co-authors Katie Ameku, Momo McCloskey Feller, and Ray Feller are shown.

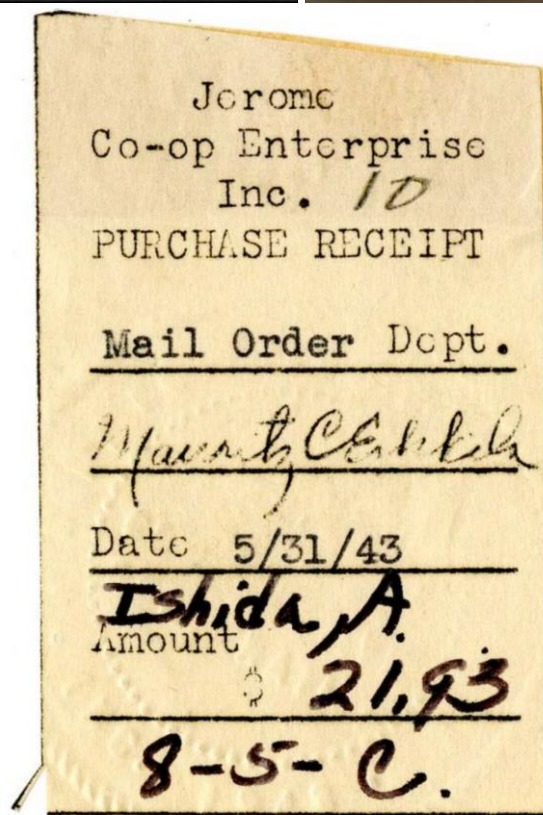
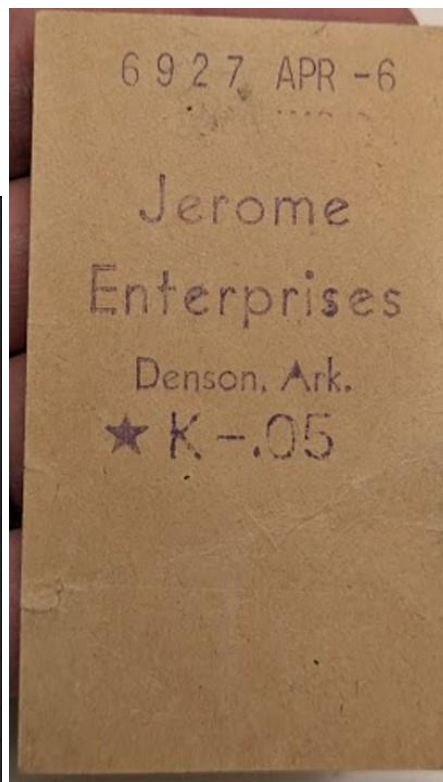
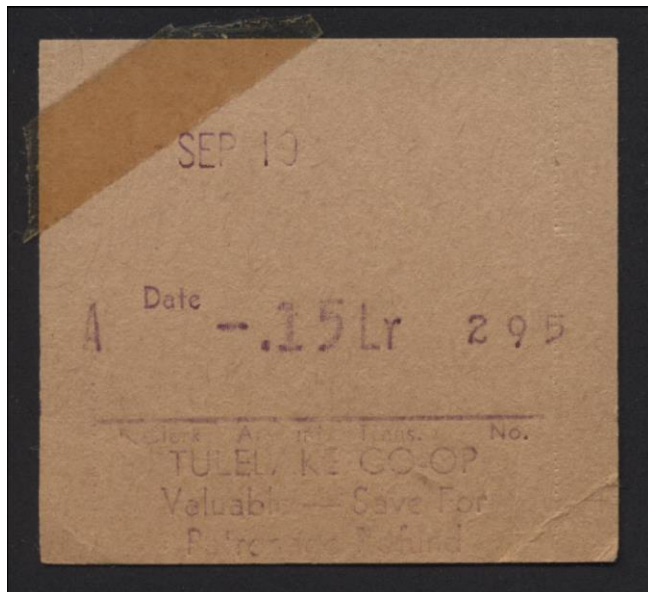


Figure 24: Purchase receipts good for profit sharing in the co-op at the Jerome Camp (World War II Japanese American Internment Museum, McGehee, AR).

Ration Cards:

Certificate of Registrar

This is to Certify that pursuant to the Rationing Orders and Regulations administered by the OFFICE OF PRICE ADMINISTRATION, agency of the United States Government,

(Name, Address, and Description of person to whom the book is issued:)

Matsubara (Last name) Setsuko (First name) Black (Color of hair) 19 yrs. Sex ☒ Male ☐ Female

Jerome Relocation Center (Street No. or P. O. Box No.) 28-7-B (Middle name) Chicot (City or town) Arkansas (State)

Stamps must not be detached except in the presence of the retailer, his employee, or person authorized by him to make delivery.

WAR RATION STAMP 22 20 16 14 19

has been issued the attached War Ration Stamps this 18 day of October, 1943

1942, upon the basis of an application signed by himself ☐, herself ☒, or on his or her behalf by his or her husband ☐, wife ☐, father ☐, mother ☐, exception ☐. (Check one.)

Edith Rogers (Signature)

Local Board No. 51-9 County Chicot State Arkansas

Figure 25: Ration card from the Jerome Relocation Camp (World War II Japanese American Internment Museum, McGehee, AR).



Figure 26: Badges for use at Camp Rohwer (World War II Japanese American Internment Museum, McGehee, AR).

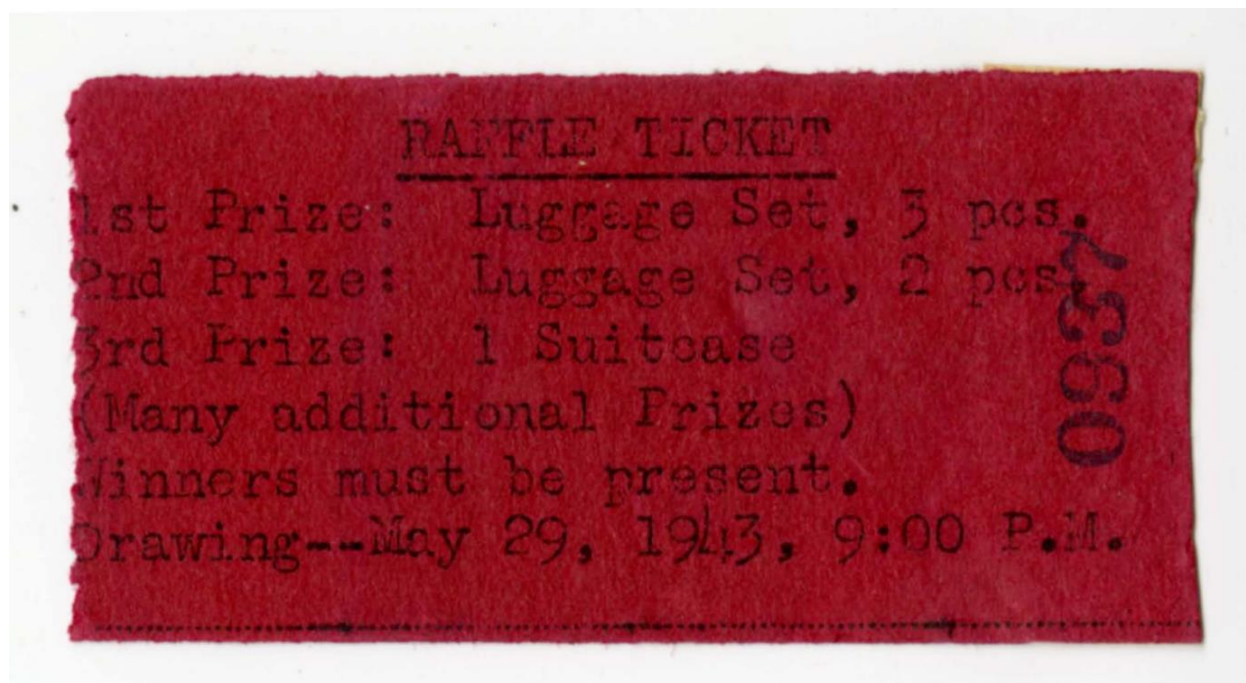


Figure 27: Raffle ticket for Jerome (World War II Japanese American Internment Museum, McGehee, AR)



Figure 28: Tokens from the Wilson Plantation (National Japanese-American Relocation Camp Museum, McGehee, AR).

We also visited the campsites of both Rohwer and Jerome. Although very little remains--two brick chimneys from the camp hospitals, a cemetery, and some monuments--we were able to get a sense of the scale of the camps. Rohwer also has an audio tour that one can listen to while reading the signage by the National Park Service, narrated by Geroqe Takai who was interned at the site. Currently vast farm fields, we attempted to imagine what they would have been like with families, schools, shops, and auditoriums.



Figure 29: The Rohwer Campsite in Arkansas



Figure 30: War memorial at the Rohrer Relocation Campsite.



Figure 31: Memorial at the Jerome Relocation Camp Site.

After Jerome closed as a war relocation camp, it served as a prisoner-of-war camp for Germans. As such, it issued scrip for work done by Prisoners of War. Shown here is a coupon booklet cover along with examples of the scrip. These coupon books were known to have been redeemable after the war.

These notes were printed in Fort Smith, Arkansas by Weldon, Williams, and Lick printing company. The imprint of the firm is on the bottom of the coupon cover.

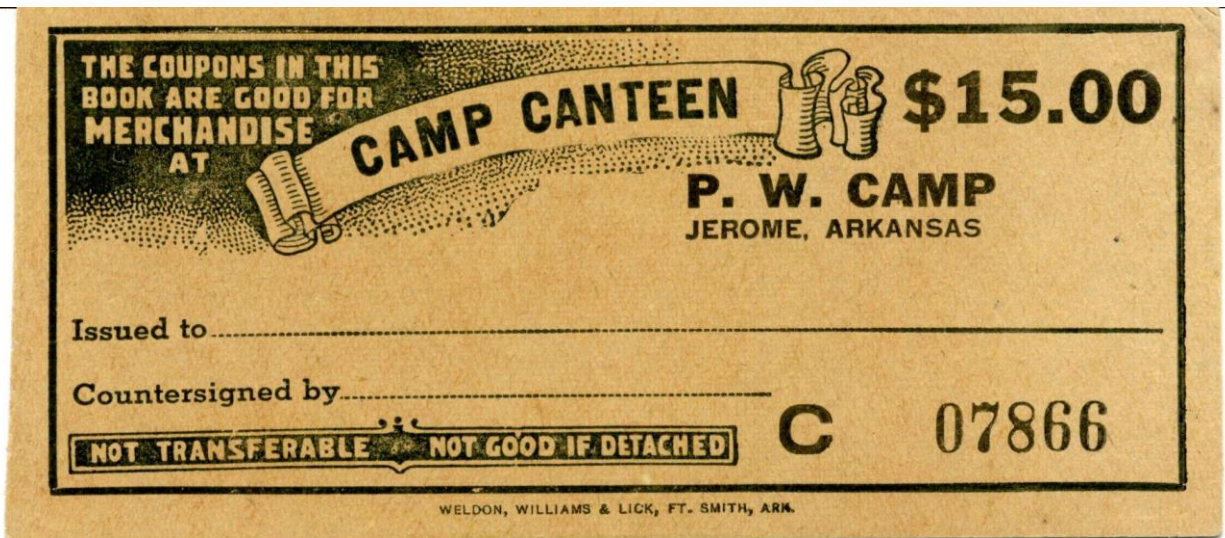


Figure 32: Cover to a book of scrip coupons used at the Jerome POW Camp.

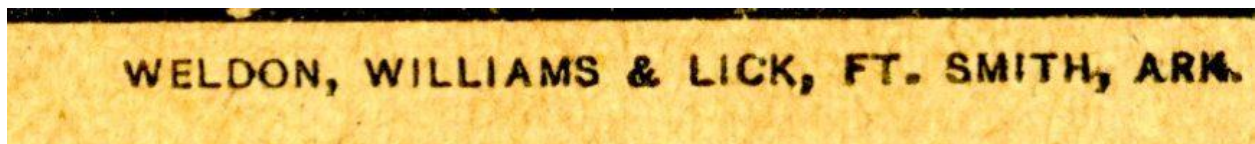


Figure 33: The printers of the scrip were Weldon, Williams, and Lick of Fort Smith, AR.



Figure 34: Set of scrip for the Jerome POW Camp.



Figure 35: The Printing Plant for Weldon, Williams, and Lick in Fort Smith, Arkansas .

The internment of Japanese Americans, including American citizens, is a difficult part of our country's history. Our hope is that, by telling the numismatic story of these camps, we will be able to help people to understand an aspect of these lives that were lived behind barbed wire.

We thank the Newman Numismatic Portal of Washington University, St Louis for their support. Our research will continue in the summer of 2024 when we visit more camp sites and museums in California.

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Figure 35: Katherine (Katie) Ameku teaches Ramona (Momo) McCloskey Feller

By Momo: It was very hot and there isn't much right now but there used to be a whole camp there. There was so much space there and all we saw was a big space with sand. The space was so big. I had fun and there was a lot of research in it at the same time.